

Public Transportation and Bicycle Committee Minutes June 15, 2010

Attendance: John Bamberger, Karen Kowles, Peter Lillya, Fran VanTreese, Helene Ver Eecke, Guilford Mooring (Superintendent of Public Works-Town of Amherst), Lynn Grabowski (Mass Bike), Joanne Lind (guest)

Meeting came to order at 4:10 pm, Romer Room- Town Hall

This year's Route 32 ridership is on course to match that of 08-09 according to an email estimate by Glenn Barrington of UMass Transit.

Town resident Joanne Lind spoke to the Committee to advocate a Town requirement that bicycle riders wear some type of **reflective clothing**, e.g. vests after dark. Committee members agreed that it would enhance safety if riders wore some reflective clothing, but most felt that an additional regulation would be ineffective. Education of cyclists about reflective gear was deemed the best way to proceed. Fran will contact the Town Police about including reflective vests in their next bicycle safety grant application, and Lynn Graboski will contact Mass Bike about this.

Guilford Mooring presented plans for **part 1 of the Spring St. reconstruction** (Boltwood Ave to Churchill St). The street will be widened and metered parking spaces established on the north side. There is too little space for bike lanes. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the plan.

Guilford then presented plans for a **traffic signal at the intersection of Eastman Land and East Pleasant St.** After a motion and second, the Committee voted unanimously to support installation of the signal and expressed a desire to see detailed plans when they become available to see any new details that bear on bicycle and pedestrian matters.

The Committee voted unanimously in favor of the following motion concerning the route 32 schedule.

The PTBC recommends that the current route 32 "full service – weekday only" be maintained from the start of college classes in Sept through the last college commencement in May with no change to "reduced service – weekday only" during college breaks. What is currently called the "reduced service – weekday only" should be followed from commencement in May until classes begin in Sept. This should be renamed as the "Summer service – weekday only". Summer Saturday service would continue as before.

The aim of this change is to eliminate the confusion about the route 32 schedule during college breaks that we experienced in 2010. The cost will be in the form of standing at time check stations to avoid getting ahead of schedule during college breaks.

The Committee voted to draft a letter stating its support for a North Amherst bike path west of the North Village and Puffton apartments and running from Governor's Drive on the UMass campus to Meadow St. Fran will draft the letter and after consultation with several Committee members, send it to Niels La Cour at UMass and David Ziomek, Town Conservation Director.

The following officers were elected for the July 2010-June 2011 period by unanimous vote.

Karen Kowles – chair
Fran VanTreese – vice chair
Peter Lillya – secretary

The following new members will be joining the Committee.

Lynn Grabowski
Eve Vogel

Next meeting will be Tue 13 July at 4 pm.

Owing to lack of a quorum at the end of this meeting, approval of May minutes was held for July.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Lillya, secretary